United Nations S/2002/611

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 June 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 3 June 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 30 April 2002.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on KFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 April 2002) there were just over 39,200 KFOR troops in theatre.

2. The security situation in Kosovo during the month of April remained calm and stable, although a riot occurred in Mitrovica on 7 April, leaving 17 policemen of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) injured, one seriously. Overall there was an increase in the number of demonstrations across the province. Illegal border-crossing incidents also increased.

Security

3. Public demonstrations on political, social and economic issues increased significantly, with 76 demonstrations reported during the month of April. Apart from the incident in Mitrovica, these demonstrations were peaceful for the most part. Minor incidents of inter-ethnic violence occurred across the province, particularly in the Gnjilane region and in Mitrovica. Although the overall level of serious crimes remains low, five murders were committed during the reporting period.

4. On 3 April, a grenade was thrown from a passing car into the garden of a Kosovar Serb house in Obilic. Two similar incidents have taken place recently in the same area. As a consequence, KFOR and UNMIK have increased patrols to provide more security for the Kosovar Serb minority in the area.

5. On 6 April, a European Union representative was injured in Pristina when someone attempted to steal her handbag. She was evacuated by KFOR and given medical treatment for a broken arm and facial injuries after being thrown down a staircase during the incident.

6. The incident that took place in Mitrovica on 7 April began when an UNMIK police patrol attempted to search a stolen vehicle and was attacked by a crowd of people. On 8 April, following another vehicle search operation near the main bridge in Mitrovica North, a crowd of up to 250 people rioted and attempted to release the driver of the vehicle. Rocks, bricks and a grenade were thrown at the UNMIK policemen, and 17 of them were injured. KFOR provided area security for the UNMIK police. UNMIK police detained four Kosovo Serbs, including a well-known Kosovar Serb activist who is being treated in hospital for injuries sustained during his arrest. Demonstrations against his detention continued for several days — eggs and stones were thrown at the UNMIK police station, and UNMIK vehicles were stoned. KFOR and UNMIK began conducting joint patrols in northern Mitrovica on 27 April.

7. KFOR continued to carry out search operations throughout the province to deter weapons smuggling and terrorist activity. The monthly total of items confiscated came to 216 weapons, 334 grenades and mines and 45,383 rounds of ammunition. Forty-five people were arrested for possession of illegal weapons.

8. During the weapons amnesty period, which ran from 15 March to 15 April, some 459 weapons, 7 rockets and missiles, 670 grenades, 90 mines and 58,771 rounds of ammunition were recovered from all the ethnic communities across the province.

9. By the end of April, 10,725 weapons had been destroyed under the weapons destruction programme. The new weapons destruction furnace began operating on 8 April.

Border/boundary security

10. During the month of April, there was a sharp increase in the number of attempts to move illegally across the borders with Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.[1] Twenty-seven incidents were reported on the border with Albania and seven along the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In all, 43 individuals were detained by KFOR and handed over to UNMIK police following the seizure of a significant amount of contraband.

11. In an incident reported on 1 April, a Serb patrol claimed it had been fired upon in the ground safety zone, on the administrative boundary line with Serbia, by automatic weapons coming from within Kosovo. Although KFOR carried out an air and ground search of the area, the attackers were not found.

12. On 17 April, KFOR forces intercepted a large-scale cigarette-smuggling operation in the border region with Albania, and subsequently handed over nine individuals and large quantities of cigarettes to UNMIK police.

13. On 26 April, an exchange of fire took place between ethnic Albanians in a truck heading into Kosovo and the Border Brigade of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in an area contested by Kosovar Albanians. One person died and two were wounded in the incident. KFOR provided assistance to prevent any illegal cross-border activity.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

14. Although the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces remain in general compliance with the provisions of the Military Technical Agreement, KFOR discovered air defence equipment (35 systems including guns and missiles) in two barracks during an inspection of the air safety zone on 8 April. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia military authorities were requested by KFOR to remove the equipment in accordance with the Military Technical Agreement and the temporary operating procedure. Confirmation of its removal was provided during a joint inspection carried out on 17 April.

15. KFOR is currently investigating a separate incident that occurred on 29 April, when a Federal Republic of Yugoslavia patrol crossed about 700 metres into Kosovo before returning across the administrative boundary line.

16. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), UNMIK has approved the peacetime establishment list reviewed by KFOR in December 2001, which will eventually be issued officially to the KPC. On 30 April, a further 374 members were transferred to the reserve. The current strength of KPC stands at 4,086.

17. Sixteen cases of KPC non-compliance were reported during the month of April, eight of which related to unauthorized attendance at public ceremonies. Sixteen members were recommended for dismissal by the Commander of KPC for lack of discipline and absenteeism. On 4 April, members of KFOR's Multinational

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Brigades attended morning roll calls, unannounced, at all KPC locations across the province, and found 28 per cent of KPC personnel absent. More than three quarters of the personnel absent were considered to be on leave or had a valid medical excuse.

18. During the reporting period, Multinational Brigade East personnel and 700 KPC members carried out joint navigation and search and rescue exercises.

19. On 24 April, an earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale shook the eastern Kosovo region of Gnjilane, resulting in one death, seven serious injuries, 62 minor injuries and damage to buildings. UNMIK personnel and more than 400 KPC members dealt with the relief operations, and KFOR provided engineering advice. Some 100 KPC members continue to be involved in relief operations. KPC was praised by KFOR, UNMIK and provincial President Rugova for its swift and effective response in providing emergency aid to all ethnic groups in the province.

Cooperation with international organizations

20. KFOR continues to provide daily assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo, on request, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations.

21. KFOR and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Police and Justice signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between UNMIK police, the Kosovo Police Service and the KFOR Multinational Specialized Unit in order to conduct joint operations and coordinate activities of mutual interest.

22. KFOR is providing on-board security for the train running from Lesak to Deneral Jankovic as part of the effort to improve freedom of movement throughout the province.

Refugees and displaced persons

23. Of the displaced persons from Kosovo still living outside the province, 201,241 are estimated to be in Serbia and approximately 29,658 in Montenegro.

24. A further 80 refugees from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia returned home during the reporting period, leaving more than 10,700 still displaced in Kosovo.

Outlook

25. The overall security situation in the province is stable, although it is expected that a low level of violence related to inter-ethnic tension and criminal activity will continue to be reported.